

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A breather filter cartridge ~~for use in a data storage device comprising:~~

a body having a tubular sidewall portion and an end portion at one end of the tubular sidewall portion, the end portion having a flange extending outwardly around the tubular sidewall portion, together where the tubular sidewall portion and the end portion define ~~defining~~ a chamber for containing a filter media, wherein the end portion has a diffusion path formed within the flange ~~therein~~ interfacing with the chamber along the tubular sidewall portion.

2. (Canceled.)

3. (Canceled.)

4. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 1 further comprising a film positioned on the end portion.

5. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 4 wherein the film is a gas permeable film.

6. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the diffusion path formed in the end portion extends around the tubular sidewall portion.

7. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 1 further comprising a gas permeable film over an opposite end portion of the tubular sidewall portion.

8. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein the chamber extends through the end portion.

9. (Currently Amended) In a data storage device having a base and a cover forming a clean internal environment therein, a breather filter cartridge permitting gas pressure equalization between an external environment and the internal environment, the breather filter cartridge comprising:

a body having a tubular sidewall portion and an end portion with a flange extending outwardly around the tubular sidewall portion at one end of the tubular sidewall portion together defining a chamber for containing a filter media, wherein the end portion has a diffusion path formed within the flange therein interfacing with the chamber along the tubular sidewall portion.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 9 further comprising a film positioned on the end portion.

13. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 12 wherein the film is a gas permeable film.

14. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 9 wherein the diffusion path formed in the end portion extends around the tubular sidewall portion.

15. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 9 further comprising a gas permeable film over an opposite end portion of the tubular sidewall portion.

16. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 9 wherein the chamber extends through the end portion.

17. (Currently Amended) In a data storage device having a base and a cover forming a clean internal environment therein, a breather filter cartridge comprising:

a body having a tubular sidewall portion and an end portion at one end of the tubular sidewall portion, the end portion having a flange extending outwardly around the tubular sidewall portion, the tubular sidewall portion and the end portion together defining a chamber for containing a filter media, wherein the end portion has a diffusion path formed within the flange ~~therein~~ interfacing with the chamber along the tubular sidewall portion; and

a means for equalizing gas pressure between an external environment and the internal environment of the data storage device by providing a diffusion path for gas to pass through the end portion of the breather filter cartridge to and from the chamber along the tubular sidewall portion.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 17 further comprising a film positioned on the end portion.

21. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 20 wherein the film is a gas permeable film.

22. (Currently Amended) The breather filter cartridge of claim 17 wherein the means for equalizing gas pressure is formed in the end portion and extends around the tubular sidewall portion.

23. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 17 further comprising a gas permeable film over an opposite end portion of the tubular sidewall portion.

24. (Original) The breather filter cartridge of claim 17 wherein the chamber extends through the end portion.

25. (New) The breather filter cartridge of claim 6 wherein the diffusion path spirals around the flange about three hundred sixty degrees without crossing the chamber.

26. (New) The breather filter cartridge of claim 6 wherein the diffusion path extends less than three hundred sixty degrees and enters the chamber along the tubular sidewall portion adjacent an upper end portion.

27. (New) The breather filter cartridge of claim 14 wherein the diffusion path spirals around the flange about three hundred sixty degrees without crossing the chamber.

28. (New) The breather filter cartridge of claim 14 wherein the diffusion path extends less than three hundred sixty degrees and enters the chamber along the tubular sidewall portion adjacent an upper end portion.